

Ranke says, 'has ever had less thought for the balance of power in Europe than James II¹. The result was that Europe became as indifferent to the fate of James II as James II was to the fate of Europe. Another chapter, the third, is headed Preparations and German Alliances of the Prince of Orange. Ranke shows that the pro-French policy of James II and the dangers with which it threatened Holland and Germany led the Dutch republicans and the German princes to further William's enterprise, and traces the steps by which William secured their aid. The next book, xix, is almost entirely given up to English affairs ; that is, to the Revolution settlement, to the struggle carried on by the supporters of James II in Scotland and Ireland, with the assistance of France, and the final defeat, at the battle of the Boyne, of the efforts of France to restore James. At the beginning of book xx Ranke returns to the relations of England and Europe.

The wish to throw the resources of England into the balance against the overwhelming power of Louis XIV was undoubtedly the original cause of the attack which William of Orange made on the throne of James. Resistance to Louis XIV had now become a European necessity ; but it never could have been successful without the adhesion of Great Britain. . . . When William III came to England, he was leagued with the States-General and

some few Ger-
man princes for this one object; but in order
to give the
undertaking the desired direction, and to turn
it against the
preponderance of France, a far more
comprehensive union
had to be arranged.²

The result was the formation of the Grand
Alliance, which is
the subject of the first chapter of book xx.
In a few pages

¹P. 384. This is what S. R. Gardiner says of
Charles I.

²v. 3-4,